

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow. After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-8 and 10-11 are now pending in this application.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given to the claims as well as indicating that claim 3 contains allowable subject matter.

Specification

The specification is objected to because of the inconsistent use of "FW" in paragraph 0022. The paragraph 0022 has been amended to address this inconsistency. In addition, the specification has been amended to correct minor typographical and grammatical errors. For at least these reasons, favorable reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being unclear because of the term "slight height" in claim 1, the overlapping ranges for the depth in claim 2, and claiming one element being greater than or equal to 30% of the plurality of connected elements in claim 9. Claim 1 has been amended to remove the term "slight height," and claims 2 and 9 have been canceled. For at least these reasons, favorable reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of claim 1-2 and 4-9 based on Smeets

Claims 1, 4, and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 0994275 ("Smeets"). Claims 2 and 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smeets. These rejections are traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 has been amended to include all the features of claim 3, which has been indicated to be allowable. For at least this reason, claim 1 is allowable over the prior art.

Claims 2 and 9 have been canceled, which renders the rejection of these claims moot.

Claims 4-8 depend from and contain all the features of claim 1, and are allowable therewith for at least the same reasons as claim 1, without regard to the further patentable features contained therein.

For at least these reasons, favorable reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Allowability of claims 10 and 11

Claim 10 contains features similar to the subject matter of claim 3, which has been indicated by the PTO to be allowable. Claim 11 recites the features "wherein the flank comprises a surface profile; and wherein a bearing ratio curve obtained from the surface profile of the flank is positioned in a range defined by a function of $Y(\mu\text{m}) = 3.3333X^3 - 2.3333X^2 + 0.6667X - 0.0267$ and a function of $Y(\mu\text{m}) = -8.3333X^3 + 20.833X^2 + 3.3333X + 0.6667$, where X is given by (total sectional area of the plurality of threads at a depth $Y(\mu\text{m})) / (\text{occupied area of the flank})$," which are not disclosed or suggested in the prior art. For at least these reasons, allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 3/29/2007

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